



# DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20340-5100



FOIA-00508-2016

March 02, 2023

U-23-3518/IMO-2 (FOIA)

John Greenewald  
27305 W. Live Oak Rd.  
Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald,

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated September 28, 2016 that you submitted to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) requesting a copy of all releasable records pertaining to the February 11, 1992 Russian and US submarine collision – the USS Baton Rouge and the Russian Sierra class submarine. I apologize for the delay in responding to your request as DIA continues its efforts to eliminate the large backlog of pending requests.

A search of DIA's systems of records located four documents (10 pages) responsive to your request.

Upon review, while considering the foreseeable harm standard, I have determined that some portions of the four documents (10 pages) must be withheld in part from disclosure pursuant to the FOIA. The withheld portions are exempt from release pursuant to Exemptions 3 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3), and (b)(6). Exemption 3 applies to information specifically exempted by a statute establishing particular criteria for withholding. The applicable statutes are 10 U.S.C. § 424 and 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i). Statute 10 U.S.C. § 424 protects the identity of DIA employees, the organizational structure of the agency, and any function of DIA. Statute 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i) protects intelligence sources and methods. Exemption 6 applies to information which if released would constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of other individuals. DIA has not withheld any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the records.

If you have additional questions/concerns you may:

Contact the FOIA Public Liaison	Email: <a href="mailto:FOIA1@dodis.mil">FOIA1@dodis.mil</a> Phone: 301-394-6253
File an administrative appeal (must be submitted within 90 days of the date on the letter) please contact us via one of the following and use FOIA-00508-2016 when referencing your case)	Email: <a href="mailto:FOIA1@dodis.mil">FOIA1@dodis.mil</a> Mail: Defense Intelligence Agency ATTN: IMO-2C (FOIA) 7400 Pentagon Washington, DC 20301-7400
For mediation services, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records	Email: <a href="mailto:ogis@nara.gov">ogis@nara.gov</a> Phone: 202-741-5770 Toll-Free 1-877-684-6448

Administration to inquire	Facsimile: 202-741-5769 Mail: Office of Government Information Services National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS College Park, MD 20740-6001
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Sincerely,



(for)

Cheryl Cross-Davison  
Chief, Records and Open Government

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

~~SECRET//NF~~**ENVELOPE**

(b)(3):10 USC 424

**HEADER**P  
130224Z MAR 92FM [REDACTED] (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)  
INFO [REDACTED]

RUEALGX/SAFE

P  
121707Z MAR 92  
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC/ [REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO [REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424

[REDACTED] (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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**CONTROLS**~~SECRET~~PASS: [REDACTED] (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i) PASS TO [REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(6)  
SERIAL: DODID 72-5A**BODY**

SUBJ: CIS: NORTHERN FLEET ACTIVITY. (U)  
 DOI: 12 MAR 92 (AS OF 1445 EST)  
 TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ A NORTHERN FLEET (NORFLT) SURFACE ACTION GROUP (SAG) HAS DEPLOYED TO THE NORTHERN NORWEGIAN SEA AS A REACTION TO THE NATO EXERCISE TEAMWORK-92.  
 2. ~~(S)~~ THE SAG, CONSISTING OF TWO SOVREMENNY CLASS GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYERS (DDG'S), TWO UDALOY CLASS DDG'S, AND THREE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS, DEPARTED NORFLT WATERS ON 12 MARCH. BASED ON SIMILAR REACTIONS DURING THE 1980'S, THIS SAG WILL PROBABLY PROCEED 150-200 NMS NORTHWEST OF NORTH CAPE, REVERSE COURSE, AND ASSUME AN AGGRESSOR ROLE. THE DEFENDING ANTISURFACE WARFARE FORCE WILL MOST LIKELY BE

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LED BY A KIROV CLASS NUCLEAR-POWERED GUIDED MISSILE CRUISER AND AUGMENTED BY NUCLEAR-POWERED ATTACK SUBMARINES (SSN'S), NUCLEAR-POWERED GUIDED MISSILE SUBMARINES, AND NORTHERN FLEET AIR FORCE STRIKE AIRCRAFT. THIS DEFENDING FORCE WILL PROBABLY REMAIN IN THE BARENTS SEA AND CONDUCT MULTIPLE, COORDINATED SIMULATED STRIKES AGAINST THE INGRESSING SOVREMENNY SAG. THE EXERCISE MAY PROGRESS TO A COMBINED-ARMS ACTIVITY THAT WOULD INCLUDE AIR DEFENSE AND COASTAL DEFENSE FORCES.

3. (C) COMMENT: THROUGHOUT THE 1980'S, NORFLT EXERCISES IN REACTION TO NATO NORWEGIAN SEA EXERCISES WERE COMMON. IN THE LATE 1980'S AND BEGINNING IN THE EARLY 1990'S, REACTION DIMINISHED TO TYPICALLY ONE OR NO COMBATANTS, ONE TO TWO INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION SHIPS, AND REDUCED AIR RECONNAISSANCE. THE RETURN TO A HIGHER RESPONSE MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO TWO FACTORS: THE COLLISION BETWEEN A SIERRA CLASS SSN AND THE USS "BATON ROUGE" SSN IN THE BARENTS SEA ON 11 FEBRUARY AND THE CONTINUATION OF NATO NAVAL EXERCISES IN THE NORWEGIAN SEA AT PREVIOUS LEVELS.

4. (C) CIS NAVAL LEADERS HAVE COMPLAINED THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE REDUCED THE SERVICE'S OUT OF AREA DEPLOYMENTS, ITS OB, AND ITS ABILITY TO CONDUCT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS, THE NATO ALLIANCE HAS MAINTAINED A THREAT TO THE HOMELAND. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE TOMAHAWK CAPABILITY OF SUBMARINES LIKE THE "BATON ROUGE" AND WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE THE OFFENSIVE NATURE OF THE AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS OF TEAMWORK-92.

5. (C) THE CIS NAVY FACES AS YET UNDETERMINED RESTRUCTURING, A SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED OPERATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION BUDGET, AND MINIMAL "SOCIAL PROTECTIONS" FOR ITS SERVICE MEMBERS. THIS NAVAL RESPONSE MAY BE A DEMONSTRATION TO RUSSIAN POLITICAL LEADERS THAT DESPITE THESE HARDSHIPS, THE NAVY CAN STILL PERFORM ITS PROTECTION OF THE HOMELAND MISSION AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEFENSE OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

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**ENVELOPE**

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**HEADER**

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PASS (b)(3):10 USC 424 PASS TO (b)(3):10 USC 424 PASS TO

SERIAL: DODID 101-3A

**BODY**

SUBJ: CIS: SIERRA DAMAGE ASSESSMENT. (U)  
DOI: 10 APR 92 (AS OF 0100 EDT)  
TEXT: 1. ~~(S/WN/NF)~~ AS A RESULT OF A COLLISION WITH  
USS BATON  
ROUGE ON 11 FEB 92, THE SIERRA I UNIT 2 WAS DAMAGED.  
2. ~~(S/WN/NF)~~ IMAGERY OF THE SIERRA I INDICATES THAT DAMAGE WAS  
LIMITED TO THE FORWARD PORTION, TOP AND SIDES OF THE SAIL. THIS WAS  
CONFIRMED IN PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SIERRA AT LITSA GUBA IN AN 18 FEB  
92  
EDITION OF "IZVESTIYA". THE SIERRA IS CURRENTLY AT OLENYA GUBA  
SUBMARINE REPAIR YARD, HAVING TRANSITED THERE BY 24 MAR 92. DAMAGE

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ASSESSMENT OF THE SIERRA IS DIFFICULT: HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT WAS NOT PLACED IN AN AVAILABLE FLOATING DRYDOCK AT EITHER LITSA SOUTHWEST OR

OLENYA GUBA, DAMAGE MAY NOT BE EXTENSIVE.

3. ~~(S//WN/NF)~~ SIERRA I UNIT 2 COLLIDED WITH USS BATON ROUGE ON 11 FEB 92 WHILE BOTH UNITS WERE SUBMERGED. "IZVESTIYA" PHOTOGRAPHED THE SIERRA BEING ASSISTED TO A PIER AT LITSA, AND THE DAMAGE TO THE SAIL AREA WAS CLEARLY VISIBLE. THE DAMAGED AREA EXTENDED FROM JUST FORWARD OF THE ESCAPE CHAMBER ON THE STARBOARD SIDE TO THE FRONT OF THE SAIL. DAMAGE MAY HAVE OCCURRED TO THE PERISCOPE, SOUND VELOCITY

METER, AND MOUSE SQUEAK SONARS THAT ARE LOCATED IN THIS AREA.

4. ~~(S//WN/NF)~~ THE OPERATIONAL STATUS OF THE SIERRA IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS. STRUCTURAL DAMAGE MAY HAVE OCCURRED TO THE TOP OF THE PRESSURE HULL BUT IS NOT APPARENT DUE TO INACTIVITY IN THIS AREA BY BASE PERSONNEL.

5. ~~(S//WN/NF)~~ COMMENT: REPAIRS TO THE DAMAGED MASTS/EQUIPMENT ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED AT OLENYA GUBA PENDING AVAILABILITY OF REPLACEMENT COMPONENTS. IF EXTENSIVE REPAIRS ARE REQUIRED, THE UNIT WOULD TRANSIT TO SEVERODVINSK SHIPYARD AFTER THE SPRING THAW OF THE WHITE SEA.

(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(6)

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**ENVELOPE**

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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SECTION 01 OF 01 SECTIONS

**BODY**

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MSGID/IIR/NPIC//

RPTID/PEPIR/NPIC/SER:

CAA214

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ITEMTYP/INDICATIONS AND WARNING ITEMS//

ITEM/001/GUBA ZAPADNAYA LITSA SUBASE SOUTH/BEN:0051-00470/CAT:95211

/CTY:UR/Y//

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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OTID/LTH:02963M/WTH:01666M/AZM:127/ELE:00021M/C MX:

01G00008D/MRG:020

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STATACT/OPR//

RMK/CIS: SUBMARINE INVOLVED IN COLLISION (~~S-WN~~)

/

/A COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS) NUCLEAR-POWERED ATTACK

/SUBMARINE (SSN) HAS RETURNED TO ITS OPERATIONAL BASE AFTER

/COLLIDING WITH A US SUBMARINE IN THE SOUTHERN BARENTS SEA. (~~S-WN~~)

/

/THE SIERRA-I CLASS SSN, WHICH WAS BERTHED AT THE THE MISSILE

/TRANSFER PIER AT LITSA GUBA SUBMARINE BASE SOUTHWEST ON 15

/FEBRUARY, ARRIVED AT LITSA GUBA SOUTH LATER THAT DAY. ALTHOUGH NO

/DAMAGE WAS READILY APPARENT, ELECTRO-OPTICAL IMAGERY ACQUIRED OVER

/THE LAST TWO DAYS REVEALED THAT THE SUBMARINE'S SAIL APPEARED

/IRREGULAR IN TONE AND SHAPE. SNOW AND HAZE INHIBITED DETAILED

/ANALYSIS, HOWEVER NO PENETRATION OF THE SUBMARINE'S HULL WAS SEEN.

/NO EVIDENCE OF REPAIR WORK INVOLVING THE SUBMARINE HAS BEEN

/OBSERVED SINCE ITS RETURN TO LITSA GUBA. (~~S-WN~~)

/

/ACCORDING TO SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE, A CIS SIERRA-I SSN SUFFERED A

/CASUALTY ON 11 FEBRUARY WHILE OPERATING NEAR KILDIN ISLAND IN THE

/SOUTHERN BARENTS SEA. A RUSSIAN PRESS REPORT INDICATED THAT THE

/CONNING TOWER OF THE SUBMARINE WAS DAMAGED IN A COLLISION NEAR THE

/ENTRANCE TO THE KOLA BAY. ACCORDING TO US PRESS REPORTS, A US

/SUBMARINE, THE USS BATON ROUGE, COLLIDED WITH A CIS SUBMARINE

/WHILE OPERATING AT PERISCOPE DEPTH. (~~TSU~~)

/ ANALYSTS - (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(6)

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**ENVELOPE**

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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SECTION 01 OF 01 SECTIONS

**BODY**

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ITEMTYP/INDICATIONS AND WARNING ITEMS//

ITEM/014/ARA GUBA NAVAL BASE/BEN:0051-00339/CAT:95141/CTY:UR/Y//

(b)(3);10 USC 424

OTID/LTH:02222M/WTH:01111M/AZM:158/ELE:00013M/CMX :

01G00022B/MRG:020

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STATACT/OPR//

RMK/ONE O-II SSGN ARRIVED AT THIS NORTHERN FLEET SUBMARINE BASE  
/SINCE 15 MARCH. THIS IS THE FIRST SIGHTING OF AN OSCAR-CLASS SSGN  
/AT THIS NAVAL BASE. IN ADDITION, THE DAMAGED S-I SSN THAT WAS  
/INVOLVED IN A COLLISION WITH THE USS BATON ROUGE IN FEBRUARY,  
/REMAINED IN PORT. ~~(S-WN)~~

/ ANALYST- (b)(3);10 USC 424; (b)(6)

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/IDF ONLY--

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/ONE O-II SSGN AND ONE E-II SSGN ARRIVED SINCE 15 MARCH. NOB  
/PRESENT INCLUDED ONE O-II SSGN, TWO C-II SSGN, EIGHT E-II SSGN,  
/ONE J SSG, ONE S-I SSN (DAMAGED), ONE V-III SSN, AND FIVE KRIVAK  
/FF. ~~(S-WN)~~

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## ADMIN

DECL/REVIEW 16 MAR 12//

REAS 3,4,5

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